

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, wetlands are areas covered with water for periods long enough to support plants that thrive in wet soils, including bogs, marshes, swamps and wet meadows; and

WHEREAS, wetlands provide critical habitat for a majority of the commercial fish and shellfish consumed in the United States and are the most valuable inland marshes for waterfowl production in North America; and

WHEREAS, wetlands act as a buffer to protect shore areas from waves and storms; and

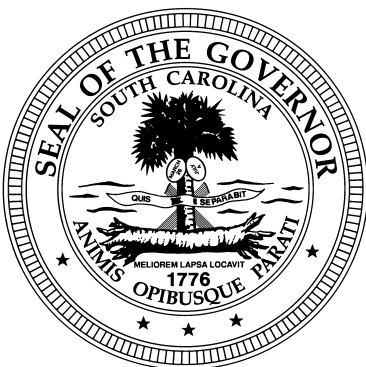
WHEREAS, the destruction of wetlands nationwide has been dramatic, with more than half of all wetlands in the contiguous states lost since the mid-1700s; and

WHEREAS, the approximately 4.5 million acres of wetlands in South Carolina have multiple and diverse functions including wildlife habitat and flood protection as well as boating, fishing, hunting, and nature watching.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2005 as

WETLANDS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about wetlands and to take an active role in preserving this important natural resource.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA